



## **WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL**

**Project ID:** 2002ND16B

**Title:** Variables Influencing Habitat Use by Diving Waterbirds Foraging in the Prairie Pothole Region

**Project Type:** Research

**Focus Categories:** Wetlands, Ecology, Water Quality

**Keywords:** Aquatic habitat, Prairie potholes, Sedimentation

**Start Date:** 09/01/2002

**End Date:** 12/31/2003

**Federal Funds Requested:** \$5,656

**Non-Federal Matching Funds Requested:** \$11,505

**Congressional District:** 1

**Principal Investigator:**

Malcolm George Butler  
North Dakota State University

**Abstract**

The purpose of this study is to uncover patterns of habitat use by diving waterbirds foraging within potholes in relationship to water depth, submergent vegetation, benthic invertebrate biomass and size, and benthic compactness and particle size. The study will focus on habitat use on the scale of the individual pothole and will seek to explain observed patterns in habitat use by comparing habitat variables to morphological features of diving waterfowl species. Habitat use information can lead to a better understanding of the habitat needs of diving ducks and how to best manage aquatic habitats for these species.